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Aruba gets "Confident Physician" for child-abuse cases



The government of Aruba announced last week that they have finally succeeded in appointing a Confident Physician for Aruba. The process for such a service began in earnest back in 2010 when Parliament approved an amendment to install such a physician. However, it took some time to find a physician willing to accept the charge. Aruba now has such a physician who will begin functioning as our Confident Physician as of the 15th of March.

A Confident Physician, in essence, is more than just a person, it is an institution. Certainly, a physician is the nucleus of the institution who must function within the scope of an organization and its procedures and agreements with other physicians, and a report-

ing code. There must also be in place a social map which must include all the organizations that have a role to play in the care of children. In essence, this means that we now have the structure to guarantee a safe and trustworthy environment for our children in abuse cases.

According to Aruba Minister of Public Health Richard Visser, the work of the Confident Physician begins the moment a notification of a child abuse case is received. The Confident Physician does an investigation to ascertain whether there is proof of an abuse and draws his conclusion. In the event there is proof of an abuse the Confident Physician mobilizes everyone involved in such cases, such as other physicians, the social work department and others. In the entire process the focus is on helping the child.

Whatever needs to be done to safeguard the health of the child will be done, according to the Minister. As of March 15, we now have a Confident Physician, which will contribute to a better future for all our children

Congratulations to THE MORNING NEWS Carnival photo contest winners!



First Place winner Felipe Cardona

(See story on page 12)

Obama to host G8 summit in Camp David in May

US President Barack Obama will host leaders of the G8 club of rich nations on May 18-19 at his Camp David retreat instead of in his hometown of Chicago, the White House said Monday.

Obama still plans to host NATO leaders and partners in Chicago on May 20-21 for a summit that is shaping up as crucial to plans to transition international forces out of Afghanistan.

The White House said in a statement that it had been decided to move the G8 summit to Camp David, which features plush cabins nestling in the Catoctin Mountains "to facilitate a free-flowing discussion with our close G8 partners."

The isolated, high-security facility will also make it much tougher for anti-global-

ization or Occupy Wall Street protesters to get anywhere near the leaders or to cause widespread disruption.

Camp David, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Washington, was opened by wartime president Franklin Roosevelt and has

hosted multiple visits by foreign leaders, though Obama has used it less than some other US leaders.

The camp was the venue for talks which led to the landmark Camp David peace accords brokered by president Jimmy Carter in 1978.



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Aquaphonics System was this week's feature on "Santa Rosa Informs" TV program

ORANJESTAD -- After the many "Santa Rosa Informs" TV programs, the Aruban community has been stimulated and challenged to begin planting in their gardens for personal consumption.

However, because of the high cost of water, many have been debating whether to begin planting. Mr. Humphrey Kock, who also contemplated the high cost of water for what he had in mind, decided to explore other possibilities to plant and keep the cost to a minimum.



Kock researched all the information he could get on the Aquaphonics system. All the information he needed was readily available on the internet. Along with the expert advice from Santa Rosa, he decided to put his system into practice at

his home. After successfully putting his system to work, he decided to expand by placing several whole and cut barrels and to expand his project.

The most important aspect of Mr. Kock's project is that his total investment was con-

siderably small. He used several barrels and PVC pipes and some foam and small pots which he got from Santa Rosa.

On Monday, TeleAruba featured the "Santa Rosa ta Informa" program which showed Humphrey Kock at work in his garden. In the program Kock showed how his Tilapia fish multiplies itself very quickly while Kock produced various types of vegetation in plastic bins.

The water in which Kock's fish lives is passed from one barrel to another via a filtering tube. All debris is left behind in another barrel closed off with plastic covers.

After all debris has been filtered, the clean water containing various minerals passes via another tube and is then sent to water his plants. The plants in his garden are, among others, the Yerbe di Hole, Spinach, Onions, and several more. His plants are all thriving wonderfully through his Aquaponics system.

Be sure to tune in to Channel 13 or 23 next week to see the next episode of "Santa Rosa ta Informa," Mondays at 7:00pm.

Santa Rosa's motto: "Let's support our culture, livestock, fishery and agriculture"

Crystal Andrus to speak at Aruba's Women's Day Conference

ORANJESTAD -- On International Women's Day, March 8th, the Ministry of Social, Economic and Cultural Affairs has prepared a special workshop dedicated to the entire community, with particular emphasis on the women in our community.

The "Aruba Women's Day Conference" is free to all and takes place at the prestigious Renaissance Convention Center from 9:00 am to 4:00 in the afternoon. The theme of the celebration of this year's Women's Day Conference is "Connecting women, inspiring their future." Every speaker will incorporate this theme into their presentation.

Aruba Women's Day Conference promises to be extremely exciting. Five outstanding and professional speakers will provide much inspiration to the women of Aruba. Crystal Andrus is one of the speakers who will be part of the workshop panel. Crystal is a world leader in the area of personal transformation and personal discovery. Crystal had a very difficult childhood. Her parents divorced when she was 12 years of age, and she was sexually abused by a friend of the family. At age 15 she was out on her own but for 3 years she had no place she could call home. Her life was in chaos, and when she finally married, she went through some very disastrous times which eventually ended in a painful divorce leaving her practically bankrupt with two young girls.

Crystal decided to get up and became a best selling author, an international motivational speaker, a champion for women's health, speaker for Louis Hay's line of supplements, Haylo Health, and the founder of the SWAT Institute.

Crystal's first book..."Sim-



Crystal Andrus

ply...Woman." The 12-Week Total Transformation Program (January 2005) became a major success in 2005, becoming number 14 as the Reader's Choice in Chapters, Indigo and Coles in Canada. Then, in 2006 she published her second book, "Transcendent Beauty" which also became a personal success and opened the doors to television for Crystal. In 2010 Crystal's other book.... "Empowered!" became a 'must-read' for one and all.

Crystal is certainly a woman who has triumphed and will be sharing her experience and knowledge with the people of Aruba during the two-day workshop here on "Aruba Women's Day Conference." This conference will be dedicated to inspire and motivate the women and young people of Aruba.

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Streetcars seen as positive instruments for the downtown area

ORANJESTAD -- The Streetcars planned for the city center of downtown Oranjestad as part of the integral renovation of the center of town, reportedly will bring many benefits.

The government recently announced the arrival of the straight rails which will be installed as soon as the foundation on which they are to be installed is completed. According to the planned schedule, the project should be completed and ready to be inaugurated in the month of December of this year. The streetcars are designed to facilitate the flow of traffic of visitors and locals to the main

street in downtown Oranjestad.

Yvonne Webb, director of the Monument Bureau remarked that the streetcars will be a positive instrument that will help promote our historical buildings and monuments located in the city center. According to Webb, "Our monuments have indirectly contributed to our tourism, they offer work to those in the construction field and they generate something of the ambiance of those who lived here before our time. The streetcar will offer our visitors the opportunity to visit these sites in all tranquility and to see our historical buildings.

They could take pictures and learn about the history of Aruba. The streetcar will pass by the monumental buildings and stop right in front of the Archaeological Museum."

Yvonne Webb considers the streetcar route to be very positive for the historical corridor of downtown Oranjestad. She says "...for the culture this is very positive as it brings the visitor closer to our culture, hence the streetcar is something very positive for us.

Reportedly, the streetcars will benefit commerce in the city center because they will bring visitors, cruise and hotel visitors, to the station next to the wharf and finally to the main street where they can disembark and walk through the main street visiting all the stores that line the street.

There will be music in the city center, which will lure our tourists to stay in the city center. The streetcars will also eliminate the headache of our local people. Chauffeurs can park their vehicles adjacent to the principal bus terminal, then hop onto one of the streetcars which will be circulating every so many



minutes. For the return journey they will repeat the same process. In the next phase of the downtown project, they

will be constructing a high-rise parking area in the area near the bus terminal.



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Government to support Serenity Park Project



Last Saturday, Minister Oduber together with Parliamentarians Herde and Rasmijn visited the Serenity Park project in Rooi Kochi, Savaneta. Serenity Park is a project which began about six years ago by Desiree Paalman.

Desiree saw the need for Aruba to have a park where there could be tranquility and one that could bring inspiration to its visitors; a place where you could sit and enjoy nature.

With the help of family and friends Desiree began working on her vision to have a park replete with fruit and vegetable trees, and surrounded by nature. The park comprises an area of 340 meters where you can walk and encounter inspirational signs along the way. Eventually they would love to have a

butterfly farm and gazebos where visitors can sit and relax and enjoy a massage with a cup of tea prepared with natural products from the garden.

The Minister saw the benefits of such a park. The government believes this park would benefit both our local community as well as our international visitors. Hence, the Minister and Parliamentarians Donny Rasmijn and Rene Herde pledged their support to help complete the Serenity Park project.

The government envisions this as an other form for integrating our tourists with the local people, giving our visitors an other opportunity to feel the culture, traditions and local products, which is exactly what the modern tourist is looking for today.

De Olde Molen Wood Fire Grill – inexpensive options for tasty BBQ & steaks



A taste of Chorizo

De Olde Molen Grill Executive Chef Anthony Muyale is well known on Aruba for being a master of the barbecue grill, and his cozy new restaurant, another fine eatery located just under the landmark red windmill in Palm Beach, offers a very, very reasonably priced and appealing menu.

Island media were invited to a "Happy Hour" to sample some of the specialties and uniformly agree Chef Anthony has not lost his touch for tasty, tender ribs and steaks. The average plate of ribs is \$14.50, with a choice of loin, special cut or beef ribs and a combo plate is only \$17.

Steaks range from an 8oz Baby Beef at \$16.50 to a 12oz Sirloin for \$21. Chicken dishes are an average of only \$10, with a chicken/rib mix \$12.50. Seafood is also a very good deal with grilled shrimp and lobster tail \$17 and \$30 respectively; there is also the option of having the shrimp as Scampi or Creole or a Lobster Thermidor- main courses included stuffed potato, vegetables and funchi, the local version of polenta.

De Olde Molen Wood Fire Grill sports a friendly, welcoming staff, is quite afford-

ably priced for excellent barbeque, and sports some lively musical performers on the weekend on the terrace, which are not overwhelming. THE MORNING NEWS



Checking out a Blush Sangria



Chef Anthony Muyale

taste testers also recommend their sangria, unique for being made with a blush wine; it was a quite refreshing twist to the popular apéritif, but had substantial kick, so tread lightly!

The complex of shops and restaurants at De Olde Molen are often ignored because they are set just a bit apart from Palm Beach's busy activity centers, but there are some quite cute and affordable places to try for the short stroll required to get there. De Olde Molen Grill is most definitely one of them, especially if barbeque ribs are your thing. Call 565-0374 for information and reservations.

Rosalie Klein



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Bon Bini Festival is tonight



The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Bon Bini Festival is the only weekly folkloric event on the island. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature the traditional Aruba caha di orgel by Nos Cultura, folkloric music by Tico y Sus Esrtrellas, dance performance by Youth in Action, declamation by Samantha Trinidad, soloist Quincy Hasham and brass band The New Generation. The event will be hosted by Ryan Maduro.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$3.



Major Dutch political party calls for dropping euro, return to guilder

THE HAGUE -- If the Netherlands returned to using the Dutch guilder, it would cost the treasury 51 billion euros according to a report commissioned by the Freedom Party on replacing the euro. Nevertheless Freedom Party leader Geert Wilders is convinced that the benefits would outweigh the costs because then the treasury would not have to dish out 75 billion euros in the next couple of years to keep the European currency afloat.

Geert Wilders presented the report by a British consultancy Lombard Street Research on

the return of the Dutch guilder yesterday afternoon. The Freedom Party leader says the introduction of the euro has cost the Dutch a lot of money and will cost them a lot more in the future. According to the report, saving weaker euro countries like Greece, Italy and possibly Spain could cost the country 125 billion euros by 2015.

The report says participation in the euro has led to "a substantial loss of wealth" for the Dutch. The consultancy says it doesn't take a lot of imagination to demonstrate the loss, although it cannot be

quantified.

The researchers compare the performance of the euro in the past ten years to that of the guilder before the coin was replaced. The British research agency also compares the Netherlands to countries like Switzerland and Sweden, which have not introduced the euro. In both cases, Lombard Street Research found that economic performance was better without the euro.

According to the report, Dutch people would have had 3500 euros more to spend this year per person, if the Nether-

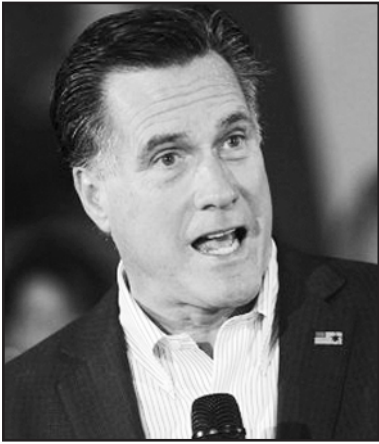
lands has shown the same economic growth and consumption as Sweden. Both Sweden and Switzerland created more jobs than in Germany and the Netherlands. Inflation was lower and the two non-euro countries were better at keeping their books balanced, states the report.

The leader of the Freedom Party Geert Wilders who commissioned the report called for support from other parties to set up a referendum on the euro. He said "The euro has cost us wealth, economic growth and spending power."

Dutch Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager says there have been plenty of studies that show that the costs of breaking up the eurozone are much higher. Government and opposition parties alike reject the findings of the report, and Mr Wilders' calls for a referendum. They say leaving the euro would damage Dutch exports. Labour MP Ronald Plasterk challenges Wilders to put his money where his mouth is during the negotiations for more government cuts currently being held in The Hague.

International News

Romney gains Super Tuesday momentum



CANTON (AFP) - Mitt Romney gained momentum yesterday, on the eve of Super Tuesday as he sought to steal a march on rival Rick Santorum in the Republican presidential race by snatching a crucial victory in Ohio.

Voters in 10 states across America will have their say today in a potentially pivotal day in the see-saw contest to see who will take on President Barack Obama, a Democrat, in the November 6 general election.

Ohio, a working class swing state in the so-called Rust Belt that is crucial to Obama's re-election chances, is considered the big prize and a win for Romney would go a long way to helping him shore up the nomination.

Santorum, a devout Catholic who fiercely opposes

abortion and gay marriage, has billed himself as an authentic conservative who understands working class voters and can beat Obama in these Midwestern battlegrounds.

But a new poll released by Quinnipiac University gave Romney, the former governor of liberal Massachusetts, 34 percent support from likely Ohio primary voters, while Santorum, a former Pennsylvania senator, trailed at 31 percent.

The three-point margin makes the race too close to call, but the Quinnipiac pollsters said the survey shows that the momentum is squarely with Romney, who just one week ago trailed Santorum 36 to 29 percent.

Romney, riding the momentum of five straight victories in Maine, Michigan, Arizona, Wyoming and Washington state, landed an important endorsement in the run-up to Super Tuesday, that of House Majority Leader Eric Cantor.

Cantor's endorsement, the first from a top member of the Republican congressional leadership, was seen as the strongest sign yet that the party establishment wants the increasingly bitter primary battle wrapped up soon.

Romney, a former businessman who made his fortune as a venture capitalist, has pulled ahead in the early delegate count but Santorum and former House speaker Newt Gingrich loom in the wings as potential upsets.

Romney has won eight states. Santorum has won

three -- four including what amounted to a beauty contest in Missouri. Gingrich has won just South Carolina, while Texas congressman Ron Paul has no victories.

Delegates are awarded by each state in the complex Republican party nominating process, sometimes on a proportional and/or non-binding basis, until one candidate reaches the 1,144 delegate threshold required for victory.

Making a final push in Ohio on Monday, Romney portrayed himself as the leader who can help "reclaim the American dream," and Obama as a president who was in over his head and unable to pull the recovery out of neutral.

Gingrich, looking to reset his faltering bid, has pulled ahead in his home state of Georgia, while a new Rasmussen poll showed Romney closing on Santorum in Tennessee.

With 437 delegates up for grabs -- nearly 40 percent of the total needed to secure the nomination -- Romney and Santorum have been crisscrossing the country to stake their claims.

Santorum has to recover from missteps in February, when his comments about birth control and separation of church and state led mainstream Republicans to question whether he was too far to the right for general election voters.

But Romney has suffered from repeated gaffes of his own, largely ones related to his wealth that risk making him appear out of touch with ordinary Americans.

McCain calls for US air strikes on Syrian forces

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Top Republican Senator John McCain on Monday called for US air strikes on Syrian forces to protect population centers and create safe havens for opponents of the regime.

McCain, who lost to President Barack Obama in the 2008 election, said while the White House "deserves a lot of credit" for helping to build global efforts to isolate President Bashar al-Assad, it was time for a "new policy."

The speech by McCain came as Syrian forces bombarded the city of Rastan, pursuing a deadly crackdown on anti-regime protesters that erupted a year ago, and which the United Nations says has

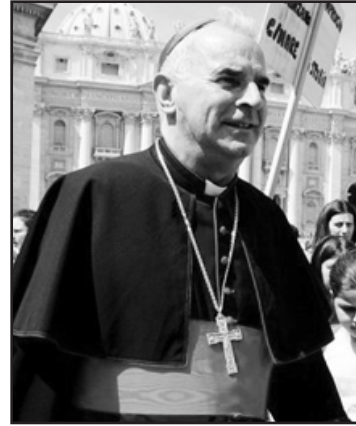
claimed more than 7,500 lives.

At the request of the Syrian opposition, McCain said, "the United States should lead an international effort to protect key population centers in Syria, especially in the north, through air strikes on Assad's forces."

So far, neither the Obama administration nor Democratic lawmakers have raised the possibility of military action in Syria.

McCain argued it would be a "strategic and moral defeat" for the United States if Assad succeeds in clinging to power, and said military action was needed to drive a negotiated transition.

Britain's top Catholic attacks gay marriage plans



Cardinal Keith O'Brien, leader of the Catholic Church in Scotland.

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's most senior Roman Catholic cleric on Sunday attacked the government's plan to permit civil gay marriage, calling it "madness" and a "grotesque subversion".

Cardinal Keith O'Brien, leader of the Catholic Church in Scotland, added his voice to religious opposition to the proposals, ahead of the launch this month of a formal consultation on same-sex civil marriages.

Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron's government has drawn up plans to introduce homosexual civil marriages before the next general election in 2015.

O'Brien said that when politicians subvert the meaning of marriage, "their attempt to redefine reality is given a polite hearing, their madness is indulged."

"Their proposal represents a grotesque subversion of a universally accepted human right," he wrote in The Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

If the government attempts to go ahead with the plans, "their intolerance will shame

the United Kingdom in the eyes of the world."

Civil partnerships for same-sex couples were introduced in Britain in December 2005, giving them similar rights to married heterosexual couples. However, the partnerships cannot legally be referred to as marriages.

"Since all the legal rights of marriage are already available to homosexual couples, it is clear that this proposal is not about rights, but rather is an attempt to redefine marriage for the whole of society at the behest of a small minority of activists," O'Brien wrote.

"Same-sex marriage would eliminate entirely in law the basic idea of a mother and a father for every child. It would create a society which deliberately chooses to deprive a child of either a mother or a father."

"If marriage can be redefined so that it no longer means a man and a woman but two men or two women, why stop there? Why not allow three men or a woman and two men to constitute a marriage, if they pledge their fidelity to one another?"

The British government's Scottish Secretary Michael Moore told BBC television the plans did not involve changing religious marriage or imposing it on religious groups.

Archbishop of York John Sentamu, the second most senior cleric in the Church of England, Britain's biggest denomination, also condemned the plans back in January.

New laws allowing same-sex civil partnership ceremonies to be conducted in places of worship in England and Wales came into force in December, though no religious group is obliged to host them.



Brazzaville, CONGO : Residents collect their belongings on March 5, 2012 in a district devastated by huge explosions at a munitions depot that left more than 150 dead and 1,000 injured in the Mpila area Brazzaville. The government said an electrical short-circuit likely caused a fire which triggered a series of blasts so powerful they devastated the surrounding area and blew out windows in Kinshasa, the capital of the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo situated across the Congo river.

AFP PHOTO



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International News

Russia arrests protestors after Putin triumph



MOSCOW (AFP) - Police arrested dozens of Russians protesting Vladimir Putin's crushing victory in presidential elections that the opposition denounced as illegitimate and international monitors said were skewed.

Western powers reacted warily to the prospect of Putin returning in a May inauguration to the Kremlin for a six year term from his current job as premier, urging a full investigation into the reports of violations.

Some 20,000 people turned out in Pushkin Square in central Moscow chanting "Russia Yes! Putin No!" as hundreds of helmeted riot police stood by on guard, an AFP correspondent said.

Most of the rally dispersed peacefully but police moved in to disperse hundreds of people who refused to leave the square. Amid frantic scenes, they arrested dozens by dragging them to waiting police vans, an AFP correspondent said.

Among those arrested were Russian anti-corruption crusader Alexei Navalny and two other opposition leaders Sergei Udaltsov and Ilya Yashin. "Hello to everyone from the police van," Navalny wrote on

Twitter after his arrest.

Moscow police also roughly arrested dozens of protesters at a separate unsanctioned event near the central election commission, including the leader of the Other Russia radical opposition group Eduard Limonov.

An AFP reporter saw nearly one hundred detained at an unauthorised meeting in

Putin's native Saint Petersburg, including leaders of the local liberal opposition party Yabloko.

According to official results, Putin won around 64 percent of Sunday's ballot in easing his way back to the seat he held for the maximum two terms from 2000-2008 before his four-year stint as prime minister.

His Communist Party challenger Gennady Zyuganov refused to recognise the results after winning just 17 percent while the billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov sprang a surprise to finish third despite building his base from scratch.

International observers led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said the campaign had been massively tilted in Putin's favour and was followed by major irregularities in the vote count.

Venezuela's Chavez confirms cancer has returned

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday admitted publicly for the first time that his cancer had returned and said he faces a new round of radiotherapy treatment after having a second malignant tumor removed in Cuba.

The news not only throws Venezuela into turmoil, but could have implications around the region, amid expectations that the man who arguably is Latin America's dominant figure may be forced, even temporarily, to cede the public stage.

"The tumor was completely removed and what we assumed was confirmed: It's a recurrence of the cancer I was

originally diagnosed with," Chavez, who is facing a tough reelection battle later this year, said on state television.

Chavez, who has been in Cuba for treatment since February 24, said Sunday that the new tumor was about two centimeters in length -- much smaller than the earlier one, which he described as being "about the size of a baseball."

Officials in Caracas have never specified what type of cancer the president is suffering from, but they have denied the disease has spread to other organs, as many observers suspect.

The Venezuelan leader expressed relief over "the absence of (additional) lesions"

Netanyahu tells Obama Israel is 'master' of own fate

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US President Barack Obama Monday that Israel must remain the "master of its fate" in a firm defense of his right to mount a unilateral strike on Iran.

Netanyahu and Obama met for delicate Oval Office talks taking place amid clear differences on the imminence of the nuclear threat from Iran and after weeks of speculation that Israel may mount go-it-alone military action.

The Obama administration has signaled that it does not yet believe Iran has taken a choice to develop a nuclear weapon, or that the time is right for military action, preferring to give biting new sanctions time to work.

Israel, which sees an Iranian nuclear weapon as a threat to its existence, however believes that Iran may be on the cusp of "break out" capacity -- the moment when it could

quickly produce weapons-grade uranium.

Obama recognized that it was "unacceptable" for Israel to tolerate Iran developing a nuclear weapon after calling for the Jewish state's destruction and again refused to rule out eventual US military action.

The president, seeking to preserve a way Iran could assuage international anxiety over its nuclear program without war, said he believed a diplomatic solution to the showdown was still possible.

Obama also took a veiled swipe at Republican presidential candidates who have slammed his approach to Iran as appeasement and claim he has failed to properly protect Israel.

Many analysts argue that Washington fears that an early, preemptive strike from Israel could trigger a fierce reaction from Iran, unleash further turmoil in the Middle East and drag Washington into a new Middle East war.

There are also fears that Israel does not possess sufficient military capacity to end Iran's underground pursuit of the nuclear arsenal it denies seeking, and could at best set back the program just a few years.

Washington also warns that tensions over Iran benefit the Islamic Republic by hiking the price of oil, and rock the global petroleum market in a way that could crimp the slow yet building economic recovery.

Obama warned in an interview with the Atlantic magazine last week that a premature strike could inadvertently help the Iranian regime.

"At a time when there is not a lot of sympathy for Iran and its only real ally (Syria) is on the ropes, do we want a distraction in which suddenly Iran can portray itself as a victim?" Obama said.

Health & Living

New York opens first gay senior citizens center



A woman holds up a sign at the annual NYC LGBT Pride Rally in Central Park's Rumsey Playfield in 2011, ahead of the passing of a bill legalizing same-sex marriage.

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York City has opened the first senior citizens center in the United States dedicated exclusively to homosexuals under an initiative sponsored by the mayor's office.

"We considered it the first full-time, full-service senior center for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual) sen-

iors in the US," said Christopher Miller, a spokesman for the city's Department of Aging.

The SAGE Center was officially inaugurated on last week in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, one of eight initiatives launched by the city to improve the lives of the elderly. Another initiative targets

the blind.

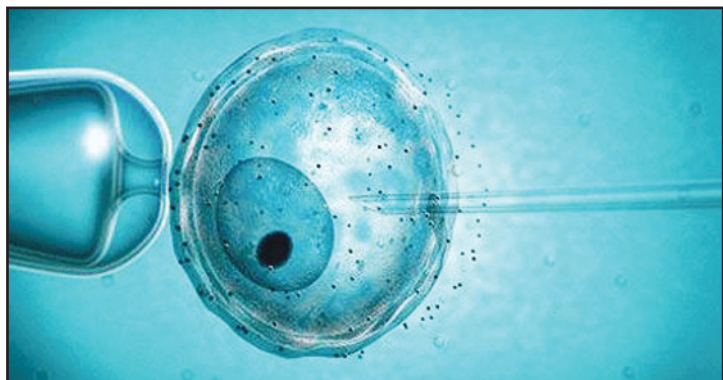
The center offers programs related to art and culture, food and nutrition and health and welfare, said officials for SAGE, a non-governmental organization dedicated to providing services for gay elders. The organization will run the center under an agreement with the city.

"The SAGE Center seeks to ensure that LGBT older adults in all five boroughs can age in good health, financially secure and with broad community support," a statement from the center said.

New York has the largest urban population of gays, lesbians or bisexuals in the country, according to the mayor's office.

Currently, 1.3 million elderly persons live in New York among a population of 8.17 million residents. Their numbers are expected to grow by 46 percent over the next 25 years.

Brazilian gay couple has child by IVF



BRASILIA (AFP) - A gay couple has succeeded for the first time in Brazil in having a child through in vitro fertilization, the baby's two fathers announced on week-end.

Baby girl, Maria Teresa, was born January 29 in the northeastern Brazilian state of Pernambuco, and her birth certificate lists both men as her parents.

Maiton Alves, 35, and Wilson Albuquerque, 40, told television channel O Globo that they decided they wanted to have a child after being together for 15 years. They were married in 2011 in a ceremony recognized under Brazilian law.

The couple's right to have a child was upheld by a decision of Brazil's Federal Council of

Medicine, which authorized the artificial fertilization with sperm donations from either partner.

Until then, authorizations for artificial fertilization were granted only to women who were married or in stable relationships.

Doctors used an anonymous egg donor and sperm from Alves. The fertilized egg was implanted into the womb of his cousin.

"It's an important precedent for people like us who have spent 15 years together and who managed to realize their dreams to have a child, a family," Alves said.

Clicerio Bezerra, a family court judge in the Pernambuco capital of Recife, has legally recognized the paternity of the couple's child.

"There are cases of registration of double paternity by adoption," the judge told a local newspaper. "This case is the only one in which two men have registered a baby as a legitimate child, as far as I know."

If it "is permitted that (same sex couples) constitute a family through marriage, why not allow that family to be completed with a child," the judge said. The couple said they plan to have another baby next year.

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Taking vitamin E linked to osteoporosis: research



TOKYO (AFP) - Japanese scientists say they have found a link between consumption of vitamin E and the degenerative bone condition osteoporosis, in a study likely to shed new light on the use of supplements.

Researchers found that giving mice increased doses of the vitamin to a level similar to that found in supplements caused the animals' bones to thin.

The mice developed osteoporosis after eight weeks on the diet, which had levels of vitamin E significantly higher than those found in a mouse's natural diet, according to the study, published in the journal Nature Medicine.

The team, led by Shu Takeda of Keio University, said vitamin E stimulates the

generation of bone-degrading cells, which normally work with bone-forming cells to maintain bone strength.

Osteoporosis is a disease that causes the thinning of bone tissue and loss of bone density over time. It often affects older people, particularly women, who may become more prone to bone fractures.

Vitamin E is found naturally in various foods including vegetable oil, nuts and some leafy vegetables.

It is also a popular health supplement as an antioxidant, and is widely believed to enhance health and slow problems related to ageing.

The study called for greater research into how enhanced levels of vitamin E affect human health.

"It is possible that with the volume (of vitamin E) contained in health supplements, bones may become fragile," Takeda told the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper.

The findings come after researchers found mice that had been genetically modified to be deficient in vitamin E had a high bone density.

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Sci-Tech

Quake researchers warn of Tokyo's 'Big One'



Houses are shown in flame while the Natori river floods over the surrounding area by tsunami tidal waves in Natori city, Miyagi Prefecture, northern Japan, on March 11 2011.

TOKYO (AFP) - A year on from one of the biggest earthquakes in recorded history, Japanese scientists are warning anew that Tokyo could soon be hit by a quake that will kill thousands and cause untold damage.

Greater Tokyo, home to 35 million tightly packed people, has seen a three-fold increase in tectonic activity since the magnitude 9.0 undersea quake that unleashed a killer tsunami last March.

Every day, an average of nearly 1.5 quakes are recorded in and around the city, one of the most populated places on earth.

But Tokyoites are so used to being shaken in their beds or at their desks that the majority pass almost without comment.

The city is, without doubt, one of the most earthquake-proofed places in the world. Even the monster quake of March 11 last year that struck just 370 kilometres (230 miles) away caused little structural damage.

Public transport was thrown into temporary disarray, leaving thousands stranded, but no buildings collapsed and there were no large-scale casualties.

The University of Tokyo's Earthquake Research Institute says the city, built at the intersection of four tectonic plates, has a 50 percent chance of suffering a major quake -- anything above a magnitude 7.0 -- in the next four years.

A simulation by the agency suggests that if an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.3 occurred in the northern part of Tokyo Bay on a weekday evening, around 6,400 people would die, with 160,000 injured.

Around 96 million tonnes

of waste would be instantly generated -- four times the total left behind by the tsunami that hit the northeast coast.

Millions of people would be unable to get home and emergency shelters would be over-run. More than one million households would be without water, gas, electricity and telephones for several days.

The impact of a huge quake on the political, economic and cultural centre would be felt nationwide, causing widespread disruption to life throughout the archipelago and

beyond, given Japan's influence in global industry.

Japan -- which experiences a fifth of the largest earthquakes on Earth every year -- lost its capital to the power of nature once before, when the Great Kanto earthquake of 1923 levelled the city.

The suggestion of a back-up capital has long been considered. Osaka, 550 kilometres (345 miles) further west, is suggested as an appropriate destination.

So far, the vast costs of establishing government-in-duplicate have put off any serious moves by politicians of any stripe, who are already battling a huge mountain of debt and a sluggish economy.

However, scientists caution, something must be done to mitigate the risk.

But some experts fear Japanese seismologists are so consumed with thinking about Tokyo's "Big One" that they have become blinkered to risks elsewhere.

Expert Robert Geller said that in a country with 54 nuclear reactors, the risk of a large quake striking anywhere in the archipelago should not be ignored in favour of concentrating on Tokyo.

Michael Jackson Sony back catalog stolen by hackers

(AFP) - Michael Jackson's entire back catalogue, including an unreleased collaboration with Will.I.A.M., has been stolen by hackers.

The Sony Music archive has been infiltrated by cybercrooks, who have illegally downloaded more than 50,000 digital files.

Record company bosses paid \$250 million (£156 million) to Jackson's estate in 2010 for the catalogue, including unheard material from studio sessions when the superstar recorded Off The Wall, Thriller and Bad.

That's according to a report in the Sunday Times with an unnamed source telling the newspaper, "Everything Sony purchased from the Michael Jackson estate was compromised. It caused them to check their systems and they found the breach. There was a degree of sophistication. Sony identified the weakness and plugged the gap."

Although the incident has only just emerged, two men

were arrested last May in connection with the alleged security breach and appeared in court of Friday, according to The Guardian.

James Marks, 26, from Daventry in Northamptonshire, and James McCormick, 25, from Blackpool, appeared at Leicester Crown Court charged with computer hacking and copyright infringement offences. Both pleaded not guilty and were bailed to stand trial in January 2013.

A source within the company told the Sun Newspaper that although the Jackson estate had been told about the hack the company did not have to make the knowledge public as there was no customer data involved.

This is not the first time Sony's online networks have been breached. In what proved to be a headache for the Japanese company, hackers stole more personal details of about 70 million users of the Sony PlayStation Network.



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Stuxnet was 'good idea': former CIA chief

(AFP) - The Stuxnet computer virus sabotage of Iran's nuclear program was a "good idea" but it lent legitimacy to the use of malicious software as a weapon, according to a former CIA director.

"We have entered into a new phase of conflict in which we use a cyber weapon to create physical destruction," retired general Michael Hayden said in an interview with the CBS television show "60 Minutes" to be aired on Sunday.

"But I also admit this was a big idea, too," he said. "The rest of the world is looking at this and saying 'Clearly, someone has legitimated this kind of activity as acceptable.'

"There are those out there who can take a look at this... and maybe even attempt to turn it to their own purposes," he said.

Hayden served as director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2006 to early 2009. He headed the top secret National Security Agency from 1999 to 2005.

Hayden was no longer CIA director when the Stuxnet attack occurred and CBS said he denied in the interview knowing who was behind it.

Suspicion has fallen on Israel and the United States, which have accused Iran of seeking to develop a weapons capability under the cover of a civilian nuclear drive. Tehran denies the charges.

Sean McGurk, a former cy-

bersecurity official in the Department of Homeland Security, expressed concern that Stuxnet could be redirected by terrorists or a rogue country against power, water or even nuclear plants in the United States.

"You can download the actual source code of Stuxnet now and you can repackage it... point it back to wherever it came from," McGurk told 60 Minutes.

McGurk, the former head of the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, said he would have advised against the use of such a weapon.

Stuxnet, which was detected in July 2010, targeted computer control systems made by German industrial giant Siemens and commonly used to manage water supplies, oil rigs, power plants and other critical infrastructure.

Most Stuxnet infections were discovered in Iran, giving rise to speculation it was intended to sabotage nuclear facilities there, especially the Russian-built atomic power plant in the southern city of Bushehr.

According to computer security firm Symantec, Stuxnet may have been specifically designed to disrupt the motors that power gas centrifuges used to enrich uranium.



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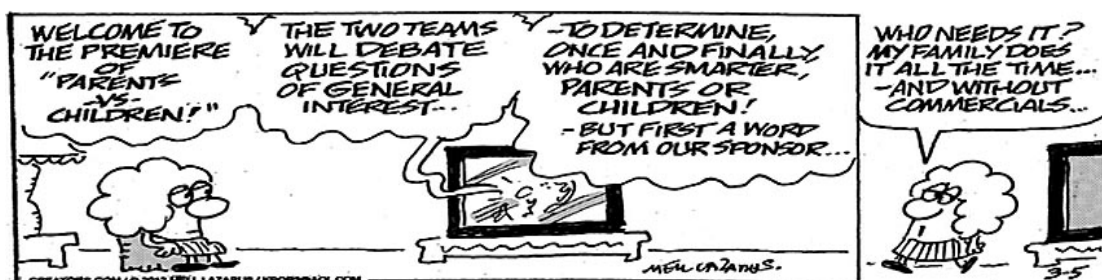
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COMICS

PICKLES



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CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. What Venus de Milo lacks
5. Bando or Maglie
8. Hyde Park baby carriage
12. Type of moss
13. Kind of numeral
15. Picture section, for short
16. Actress Fitzgerald ("Hear My Song")
17. Avoid neatly
18. Anita Baker's range
19. 1982 Peter O'Toole film
22. "___ on Goodness" ("Camelot" song)
23. Educated guess: abbr.
24. Depot: abbr.

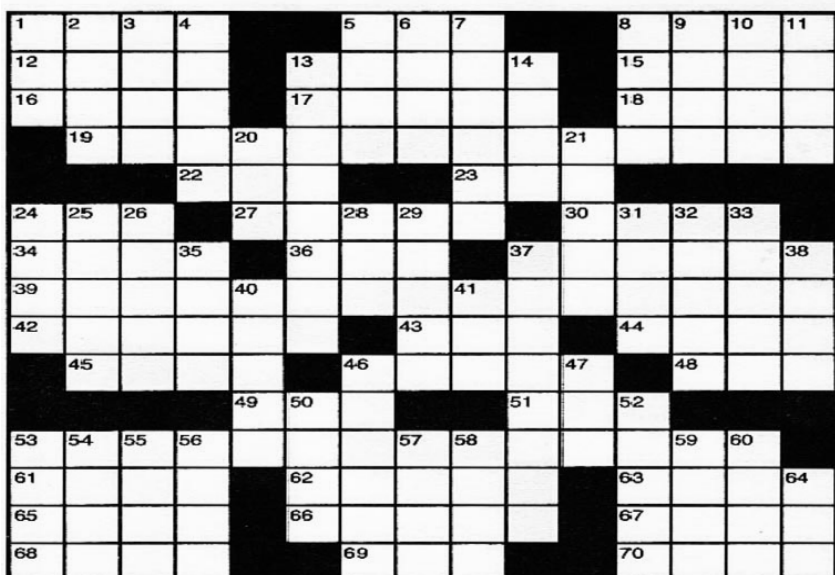
27. Adds decoration
30. Scurries
34. Period of army duty
36. Golf-club part
37. Endorsed
39. 1996 Will Smith film
42. Controlled a horse
43. Keogh alternative: abbr.
44. Nantes noggin
45. Cross
46. Daydream
48. After uno
49. Delivery course: abbr.
51. Krazy cartoon karacter
53. 1945 Ray Milland film
61. "___ I Am" (Al Green hit)
62. "He gave to mis'ry all he had, ___"

- (Gray)
63. 12, sometimes
65. Goddess of discord
66. Hires
67. "Prince ___" (R.L. Stevenson)
68. Portion for the fourth little piggy
69. Hwy.
70. Panpipe material

DOWN

1. Part of many a NYC address
2. Package of paper
3. Cohan's wife
4. Flag pole
5. Unaccompanied flight
6. Tatar Strait feeder
7. Ellington's sophisticated ones

8. Supplicate
9. 007, for Brosnan
10. Start of an encouraging shout
11. North African invader of Spain
13. Went back to
14. Entrapping devices
20. River islet
21. Rules of conduct
24. Confusion
25. Skin care purchase
26. Of sound
28. Process or express ending
29. TV and newspapers, e.g.
31. "___ misty..."
32. Broke off
33. Former treaty org.
35. Clinton's third choice for A.G.
37. Noshers
38. Changes the color of
40. San ___ (L.A. area port)
41. Marine bird
46. Shackles
47. Tibetan beast of burden
50. Tyrant
52. Pavarotti's range
53. At that point in time
54. Long lunch?
55. One of John Boy's sisters
56. ___ majesty
57. Pursue (one's way)
58. Sups
59. Brief letter
60. Love to excess
64. Agree silently



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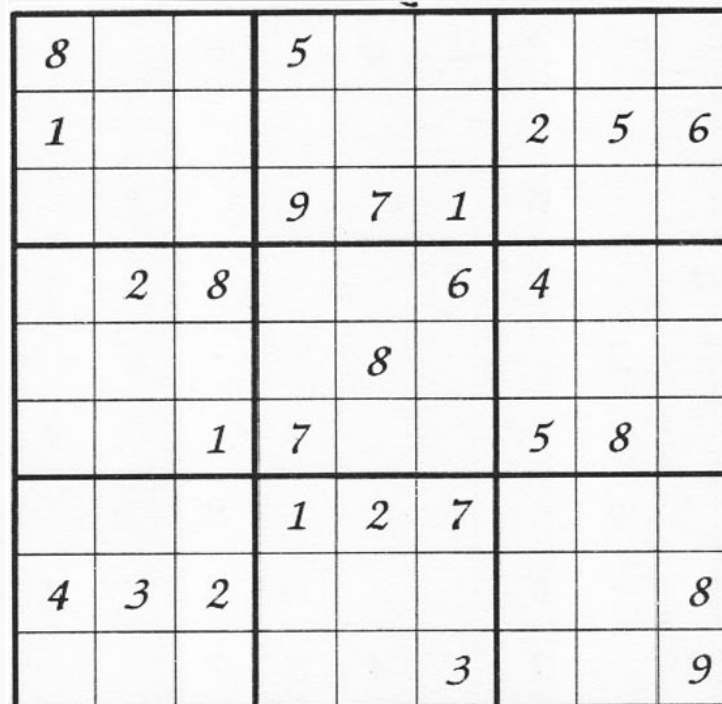
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	7	9	5	8	1	2	4	3
8	1	2	6	3	9	7	5	4
5	4	3	7	2	1	6	8	9
7	8	5	4	6	2	1	9	3
9	1	5	8	2	4	7	6	3
4	6	7	9	1	5	8	3	2
1	8	2	1	6	9	5	7	4
9	5	7	8	3	4	2	6	1
1	2	6	7	9	5	4	8	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Disasters cost \$380 billion in 2011, says UN

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Disasters led by the Japan earthquake cost the world a record figure of more than \$380 billion last year, a UN official said Monday.

While countries are managing to control the disaster death toll, economic costs are increasing more than ever before, said Margareta Wahlstrom, the UN special envoy on disaster risk reduction.

She called the \$380 billion figure "the minimum" cost, two thirds higher than the last record in 2005 when the United States suffered huge losses from Hurricane Katrina.

This time, earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand, as well as floods in Thailand and other countries sent the cost skyrocketing. "Earthquakes are the costliest and the deadliest of disasters," Wahlstrom told a press conference to mark the first anniversary of the Japan quake

on March 11 last year.

The quake, tsunami and nuclear explosion at Fukushima caused more than \$210 billion of damage, according to the UN disaster risk reduction agency headed by Wahlstrom.

It has put the cost of the Thailand floods at more than \$40 billion.

New Zealand's central bank has estimated that the deadly earthquake on February 22 last year caused about \$25 billion in losses, just for rebuilding.

"The main message is that this is an increasing and very rapidly increasing trend, with increasingly economic losses," Wahlstrom said.

"Globally, the disaster mortalities are proportionally declining because countries are getting much better at early warning systems and preparedness," she said. "But the economics of disasters is becoming a major threat to a number of countries."

Swiss lawmakers pass tax deal with US, easing bank secrecy

GENEVA (AFP) - Swiss lawmakers on Monday approved a revised tax accord with the United States that eases banking secrecy rules, allowing Washington to obtain details of tax cheats from Swiss banks with greater ease.

The new treaty would allow US authorities to demand information on suspected tax cheats, even without identifying the suspects' names or addresses, if the bank in question or its employers have acted illegally.

If no illegal action has been associated with the bank

or its employees, then it would remain necessary for Washington to identify the suspect in order to obtain help from Switzerland to release the person's details.

Parliament passed the treaty while Bern and Washington are in negotiations over 11 Swiss banks which the US has accused of helping US taxpayers hide assets.

The tax probe had led to the collapse of Wegelin, Switzerland's oldest private bank. Three of its bankers have been charged with conspiring to help American clients hide funds.

Merkel hits back at Brazil 'monetary tsunami' jibe

HANOVER (AFP) - German Chancellor Angela Merkel hit back Monday at the view recently expressed by Brazil's president that rich nations were unleashing a "tsunami" of cheap money, pointing to "protectionist measures" from developing countries.

Speaking at the opening of the CeBIT -- the world's biggest trade fair -- alongside Dilma Rousseff, president of Brazil, this year's "partner country", Angela Merkel said: "The international financial crisis and economic crisis is still lingering."

"The Brazilian president has talked about a liquidity tsunami, expressing some concerns at what is happening in the US and Europe," Merkel said.

"On the other hand of course, we are also looking at protectionist, unilateral measures adopted elsewhere."

On Thursday, Rousseff complained rich nations are responding to the global financial crisis with easy credit and low interest rates -- and that cheap money makes its way to Brazil, which has high interest rates and a strong currency.

Brazil considers the situation an "exchange war" because as a result Brazilian products are more expensive and US and European imports cheaper.

"We are concerned about this monetary tsunami" caused by the "developed countries," Rousseff said in a speech to business and labour leaders.

Brazil, which last month overtook Britain as the world's sixth largest economy, has come under fire over what some have presented as protectionist measures.

Causing particular ire is a decision in September to slap a whopping 30 percent tariff on all vehicles that are not at least 65-percent Brazilian made, or made in Mercosur, the local South American trade bloc.






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Cotton prices jump after India export ban

NEW YORK (AFP) - Cotton prices soared in New York on Monday after India abruptly banned cotton exports, a move that traders said could send Chinese buyers flocking to the US market.

India, the world's second-biggest cotton exporter, on Monday halted all cotton exports to protect domestic supplies until further notice, with immediate effect.

Cotton futures prices shot up on the ICE exchange in New York. The benchmark contract for May delivery rose the daily maximum of four cents in early trade to 92.23 cents per pound and held there for the rest of the session.

On India's MCX Kapas, cotton futures for April eased four percent on expectation of improved supplies.

The ban came just six months after India completely freed cotton export

controls. Strong shipments mainly to China brought about the move: India already has exported 8.5 million bales in the fiscal year ending March 31, more than the government's limit of 8.4 million bales.

The sudden cut-off will trigger a scramble to replace the 1.5-3.5 million bales already ordered, most of them by China.

John Flanagan at Flanagan Trading said that could be a big positive for US producers.

"India is proving to be an unreliable source of cotton," he said.

"Chinese buyers will decide whether they look for a new (producer) which will mainly be the US," he said.

Even so, the price spike was expected to rapidly ease because of the abundant world cotton supplies, key to industry and textiles.

Global car sales to increase 4%: German federation



SWITZERLAND, Geneva : The Volkswagen Cross Coupe hybrid concept car is seen during a preview of Volkswagen Group ahead of the 82nd Geneva Car Show in Geneva. Some 700 carmakers hold a press preview of their newest batch of automobiles at the Geneva Motor Show, which opens to the public from March 8 to 18. Despite "headwinds" in the world economy "the global automotive market remains on course for growth," VDA president Matthias Wissmann said at a news conference on the eve of the Geneva International Motor Show opening. "Overall, we expect 2012 to bring four percent expansion on the world-wide passenger car market," he added. "We cannot simply maintain the high rates of growth from 2011 in the same form," he was quoted as saying in a VDA statement. "We have reduced our speed somewhat, but we are keeping it relatively high." VDA expects the US market to remain dynamic after two years of double-digit growth, racking up an eight percent gain to 13.7 million light vehicles in 2012. It said China will also post strong growth of eight percent to 13.1 million vehicles. In Japan, where car sales last year were hit by the earthquake and nuclear disaster, the market should rebound by 17 percent to 4.1 million units. Western Europe is the dark cloud on the horizon. "As a result of the public debt crisis in some EU countries, passenger car sales in Western Europe this year will, in all probability, decrease by as much as five percent, to 12.1 million units," said Wissmann.

Daily Exchange Rates				
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U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
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Canada	CAD	1.770	1.790	1.810
Britain	GBP	2.760	2.810	2.870
Switzerland	CHF	1.9508	1.9580	1.9660
Netherlands	EUR	2.3333	2.3545	2.3782
Sweden	SEK	0.2565	0.2637	0.2717
Denmark	DKK	0.3071	0.3143	0.3223
Norway	NOK	0.3077	0.3149	0.3229
Japan	JPY	216.97	218.95	221.15
(per 10,000)				

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

STIR AWED NASAL
MORE DORA ARUBA
OKEYDOKEY DARES
KANSAN GAPER
EYE CASTOR TRA
RIGHTO AHAB
ARLO TETS LINE
GROANS STINTS
ARGO AREA RIGS
GOES GOTCHA
AGR AMATOL MET
ATLAS BESETS
ETHEL YOUTBETCHA
TEASE ASTI ACER
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Congratulations to THE MORNING NEWS Carnival photo contest winners!



"Lizzy" by Felipe Cardona



2nd place by Sarita Ramdas

THE MORNING NEWS Editors Chandette Richardson and Rosalinda Maduro were very pleased to present the prizes to their first and third place winners of the paper's inaugural Carnival Photo Contest 2012, at their offices last week.

The purpose of the contest was for all those that enjoy

Aruba's carnival in all its aspects to share it with our readers and island visitors. This year, First Place winner was Felipe Cardona, a student at Colegio Arubano, with his provocative photo titled "Lizzy." Contest judge Jenny Raphaela of Fuji Color, located on the main street in

Oranjestad, expressed the photo "best captured the feeling of Aruba and someone who is enjoying carnival – it embodied the spirit of both. "You can look at this photo and create an entire story around it in your head."

Felipe won a 2/night - 3/day stay at the beautiful Boardwalk Small Hotel in Palm Beach, which was awarded to him by co-owner Stephanie Rooijakkers. Chandette Richardson handed Felipe 8 raffle tickets towards the newspaper's drawing on June 1 to win two tickets to Bonaire with Tiara Air and Jenny presented him with a canvas print of his lovely photo, a special prize for 1st place.

2nd place winner was Sarita Ramdas, who won a trip for 2 on the Mi Dushi Sailboat with her adorable shot of a Carnival Queen, and the 3rd place prize of an Ultimate Play Package was awarded to Janet McIntyr by Alica Vrolijk of the Cool Casino in the Riu. Janet also received 5 raffle tickets for the grand drawing from Rosalinda.

Entrants received raffle tickets for each photo they entered in the contest, liking the newspaper's Facebook page and subscribing to the online edition of THE MORNING NEWS, which is free of cost, as well as additional tickets for winning the photo contest.



Mrs. Janet receiving her prize by Alicia Vrolijk and Rosalinda



Carnival Queen by Janet McIntyr

Newspaper management and staff congratulate the winners and thank them for sharing their carnival experience; it is still possible for anyone to enter and to win tickets to

Bonaire by subscribing to the online edition. Visit www.themorningnewsaruba.com for full contest details; the grand prize drawing will be June 1.

by Rosalie Klein

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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too



Gouda Burger 2

first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers—the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to

be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way—with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner — daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

SPORTS

Golf: McIlroy shows his mettle in win for top spot



PALM BEACH GARDENS, (AFP) - Rory McIlroy heard the roar and knew Tiger Woods had done something special.

The 22-year-old from Northern Ireland calmly lined up his eight-foot birdie putt and made it -- just one of the tests he passed with flying colors Sunday for a Honda Classic victory that propelled him to number one in the world golf rankings.

"I could hear the huge roar," McIlroy said. "And it definitely wasn't a birdie roar."

The cheering was for Woods's eagle on the final hole, which momentarily pulled the 14-time major champion within one shot of McIlroy.

McIlroy made his birdie at 13 to stretch the gap back to two, and delivered a series of clutch par putts coming home to seal the victory.

"It was always a dream of mine to become the world number one and the best player in the world or whatever you want to call it," McIlroy said.

"But I didn't know what I would be able to get here this quickly. ... Hopefully, I can

hold onto it for a little longer."

McIlroy, whose resume includes a record-setting US Open victory at Congressional last year, was celebrating by flying to New York to see his girlfriend, Danish tennis player Caroline Wozniacki -- herself a former world number one in her sport.

He was due back in Florida later in the week for the World Golf Championships event at Doral.

It was the second week in a row that McIlroy had a chance to supplant Luke Donald at the top of the world rankings. He missed out at the WGC Match Play Championships when he fell in the final to American Hunter Mahan.

This time around, despite the pressure from Woods, McIlroy held on, single putting four of the last six holes.

Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell was delighted for his compatriot, and for the excitement that Sunday's final round promised for the rest of the season.

Not only did Woods pour on the pressure with his closing 62, England's Lee Westwood rocketed up the leaderboard with a fourth-

round 63.

"It was a lot of fun out there today," McDowell said. "For Rory to go out today with a two-shot lead and have Tiger shoot 62 on him and Westwood shoot 63 ... this golf season just got a lot more spicy."

McDowell said McIlroy, who becomes the second-youngest player behind Woods to rise to number one, said improved putting had helped his compatriot.

"That was the missing link, because the rest of his game is all there," McDowell said. "As soon as he learned how to putt, he was going to be a dominating force, and you're starting to see that now."

Donald, who did not play in Florida this week, was quick to offer his congratulations via Twitter.

"Congrats @McIlroyRory enjoy the view!" the Englishman tweeted.


But former number one Woods -- who has not won a tour-level title in more than two years -- garnered as much attention as the new number one.

Still the biggest draw in golf, the 14-time major champion demonstrated he is ready to rekindle his stalled pursuit of Jack Nicklaus's record of 18 major titles.

That can only be good for the game, McDowell said.

"I'm excited to be part of golf right now," he said. "It's great to have Tiger Woods back playing the kind of golf we know he can play, because he's exciting for golf..."

"I think Rory ... he's working harder and he has a huge amount more belief in himself and he knows what he wants to do now and he knows how to do it."

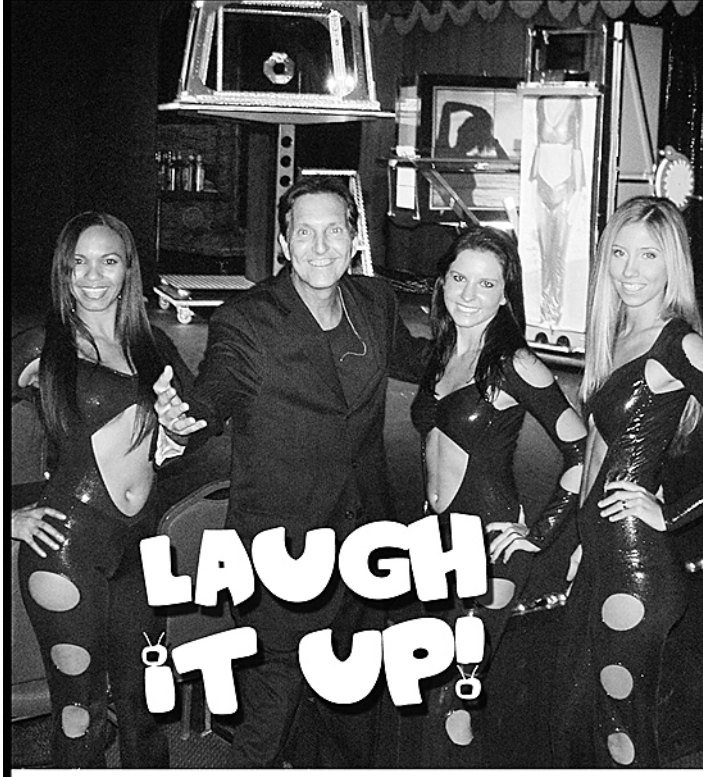


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FIFA says consensus near on fixture-cutting deal

PARIS (AFP) - World governing body FIFA said on Monday it believed a general consensus had been reached with European governing body UEFA, leagues and clubs on a deal to cut the number of international fixtures.

Last week, European football clubs announced a deal with UEFA to trim the schedule amid claims of overload for players although FIFA, which has the final say, appeared to question their stance.

However, in a statement from its Zurich headquarters, FIFA indicated "major" progress had been made following a meeting opened by FIFA President Sepp Blatter and conducted by FIFA Secre-

tary General Jerome Valcke of confederations, clubs, leagues and players.

The participants "unanimously stated that much progress has been made on reaching a consensus."

Essentially, the agreement in principle validates proposals backed by the European Club Association (ECA), grouping 201 teams from all 53 UEFA member nations, to cut the annual number of international matches from the current 12 to nine.

The ECA agreed that scenario with UEFA after an ECA general assembly in Warsaw last week and termed the move - scrapping August friendlies and introducing rules allowing

player release for international duty for no more than one senior tournament per year - "a major breakthrough for European club football."

UEFA and ECA have agreed that players should not play more than one international tournament per year - though FIFA has not gone down that route, saying instead that "a player may play more than one international tournament per year."

In addition, players from African and North and Central American countries who have played their regional tournaments - the Cup of Nations and the Gold Cup respectively - in a Confederations Cup year would also be allowed to play

the latter event if their nation has qualified.

A further pillar of the ECA-UEFA proposals would see international championships end by mid-July and the Africa Cup of Nations start in early January to avoid the current schedule which extends into February and leaves European clubs, who have no winter break, shorn of their African stars for over a month.

The ECA-UEFA deal, valid from June 1 to May 30, 2018, further covers injury insurance for European clubs' players on international duty.

FIFA had previously been irked at the ECA for turning down mutual talks on the need to cut fixtures but the world

body had stressed it hoped all parties would move forward at Monday's meeting, while reiterating that it alone is the ultimate arbiter of the international calendar.

FIFA said its executive committee will discuss the proposals at a scheduled meeting on March 29-30.

In the meantime it drew up the main points to be submitted to that meeting.

Those include releasing players to their countries on the Monday ahead of the nine double dates across a two-year cycle for a total 18 matches in that period plus one double date for non-European nations during Euro 2016 albeit without recourse to specific dates.

NBA: Rondo shines as Celtics down Lin's Knicks



Rajon Rondo #9 of the Boston Celtics takes a shot as Baron Davis #85 of the New York Knicks defends

BOSTON (AFP) - Rajon Rondo delivered a mammoth "triple-double" to lead the

Celtics to a 115-111 overtime victory over New York Sunday, spoiling Knicks guard Jeremy Lin's return to Boston.

Rondo poured in 18 points with a career-high 17 rebounds and 20 assists. It was the most impressive "triple-double" in the league since Magic Johnson's 24-17-17 in 1989.

Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 34 points, including a three-pointer in the waning seconds of regulation to force overtime, and Kevin Garnett had a "double-double" of 18 points and 10 rebounds.

NBA sensation Lin -- a one-time bench-warmer who shot to prominence last month -- had 14 points with five assists and four rebounds for the Knicks, who were led by Carmelo Anthony's 25 points.

Lin, who graduated from Harvard University in the Boston area and attended several Celtics games as a student, had hoped for more on his return.

His last game at Boston, on February 3, preceded his February 4 break-out performance against New Jersey and the dawn of the "Linsanity" hoopla that gripped New York media and Knicks fans.

The fact that Lin is Asian-

American, born in California to parents who moved from Taiwan, made him an international favorite as well and there were pockets of Lin supporters scattered among the Celtics faithful on Sunday.

Lin's Harvard coach -- and the university president -- attended the game.

Two quick fouls hindered Lin early, but in the fourth quarter he flashed the skills that have sparked the Knicks as New York tried to claw back.

Lin connected on a layup off a loose ball and drained a wide-open three-pointer to narrow the gap to 96-95 with 2:07 left in the fourth.

He scored six straight points late in the last period of regulation, but he also had six turnovers in his 31 total minutes.

"The thing about Jeremy, he's going to make some mistakes, and he's got a learning curve," said Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni.

"There's no way you can throw him in here, the first time he ever does it, and expect it to be perfect. But he finds a way to be very positive at the end of games."

The Celtics paid special attention to Lin. Like Miami a fortnight earlier, they didn't want the rising star to beat them.

"Definitely a target," Lin said. "But I think that's fine, because I think we have such a well-rounded team."

Golf: Tiger books Palmer event as final Masters tuneup

ORLANDO (AFP) - Tiger Woods, a 14-time major winner chasing the record 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus, will play in the Arnold Palmer Invitational in his traditional final tuneup for next month's Masters.

Woods announced on his website on Monday that he has committed to the US PGA Tour event at Bay Hill on March 22-25. Woods will seek his seventh victory at Bay Hill, having won PGA events there in 2000-2003, 2008 and 2009.

Woods typically takes the week off before the Masters and is expected to skip the Houston Open once again in order to prepare for the year's first major championship, to be staged April 5-8 at Augusta National Golf Club.

World No. 16 Woods has not won a tour-level title since his infamous sex scandal, al-

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NBA: Nets' Williams scores club-record 57 against Bobcats

CHARLOTTE (AFP) - Deron Williams poured in a club-record 57 points to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 104-101 NBA victory over the Charlotte Bobcats on Sunday.

Williams made 16-of-29 from the field and a perfect 21-of-21 from the free-throw line en route to his career-high points total -- and added seven assists and six rebounds for good measure.

"Coach (Avery Johnson) said we'd be off Monday if we won," Williams said. "I had an 11:39 tee time."

Williams said the only previous time he scored 50 points at any level was in Turkey, where he played during the NBA lockout.

He was surprised that the Bobcats, who fell to a lowly 4-31 this season, didn't do more to keep the ball out of his hands.

"I'm used to getting double-teamed on pick-and-roll," Williams said. "Refreshing not to."

Meanwhile in Los Angeles

Kobe Bryant found winning was the best revenge Sunday, scoring 33 points to lift the Lakers to a 93-83 NBA victory over Miami a week after his nose was broken by Heat guard Dwyane Wade in the All-Star Game.

The foul in the NBA's mid-season exhibition, which also left Bryant with a concussion, had turned Sunday's marquee contest into a grudge match, but the Lakers were content to extract payback via the scoreboard.

Bryant, still wearing a clear protective plastic mask that covered his nose, cheekbones and eyes, scored 18 points on eight-of-10 shooting in the first quarter.

Wade could do nothing to help at the finish, after he fouled out with 5:14 to play having scored 16 points with five assists and four rebounds.

Miami superstar LeBron James scored 25 points with 13 rebounds and seven assists.

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FIFA team due in Brazil to assess World Cup work



BRASILIA- Handout picture released by Brazil's Ministry of Sports of FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke (L), Brazilian former football star Ronaldo Nazario (R), member of the Brazil 2014 FIFA World Cup organizing committee, and Brazil's Minister of Sport, Aldo Rebelo, pose after a meeting about the issues concerning the preparations for the Brazil 2014 FIFA World Cup, on January 16, 2012

SAO PAULO (AFP) - A FIFA team was due in Brazil today to monitor progress in building stadiums and infrastructure projects for the 2014 World Cup amid a blazing row triggered by criticism of the lagging preparations.

Some 40 experts from football's world governing body and Brazil's Local Organizing Committee were to inspect work on arenas in six of 12 cities that will stage World Cup games: Sao Paulo, Porto

Alegre, Curitiba, Cuiaba, Manaus and Natal.

They will look at the operational planning for the stadiums, including "transportation, security and orientations of the public," according to LOC's stadium operations manager Tiago Paes.

Their weeklong visit comes amid a sharp exchange of words between FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke and Brazilian government officials.

It all began Friday when Valcke suggested that the Brazilian organizers of the 2014 World Cup needed a "kick up the backside."

"I don't understand why things are not moving. The stadiums are not on schedule any more and why are a lot of things late?" he asked.

"I am sorry to say but things are not working in Brazil," he added. "You have to push yourself, kick your arse and just deliver this World Cup and that is what we will do."

Valcke also suggested the priority in Brazil was to win the tournament rather than organise a good World Cup.

Brazil reacted with outrage, with Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo announcing Saturday that his country would boycott Valcke as a FIFA spokesman.

Rebelo was set to send a letter to FIFA President Joseph Blatter to ask for a new negotiator, a spokesman told AFP.

Despite Brazil's hostile reactions, Valcke said he planned to go ahead with a March 12 return trip to the country to supervise preparations for the 2013 Confedera-

tions Cup and the World Cup a year later.

The Confederations Cup, which will serve as a dress rehearsal for the World Cup, is scheduled to be held from June 15 to 30, 2013, with games scheduled in Rio, Brasilia, Belo Horizonte and Fortaleza.

Two other cities, Recife and Salvador, are still awaiting final approval from FIFA and Brazil's LOC depending on progress in the preparations.

Held every four years, the Confederations Cup brings together the title winners from each of the world's six confederations, in addition to reigning world champions Spain and hosts Brazil.

FIFA has for months expressed varying degrees of concern over the extent to which preparations -- renovation or construction of stadiums as well as infrastructure projects -- are on track for the first World Cup in Brazil since 1950.

"Certainly, Brazil will have the 12 stadiums ready for the World Cup (some of them probably on the eve of the

opening of the tournament). But most of the other infrastructure projects are lagging," Jose Roberto Bernasconi, president of Sao Paulo's Architecture and Engineering Union, has said.

FIFA is also concerned about delays in securing congressional approval of a bill on the World Cup.

One key issue is the current ban on beer sales in Brazilian stadiums.

Sales of alcoholic beverages in sports arenas have been banned in Brazil since 2003, but a bill now making its way through Congress would create an exception, allowing beer to be sold in plastic cups at World Cup matches.

FIFA has an agreement with its sponsor, the US-based Anheuser-Busch brand Budweiser, and prohibiting beer sales would cut into the football organization's revenues from the games.

The bill is expected to be approved by a congressional panel today and later by a plenary session of both houses of Congress.